TWENTY - FIVES.

During the last few years there has arisen among some of the members of the Rucksack Club a new craze or hobby, which may be looked upon as a special form of the old passion for "peak-bagging" which has long been known to mountaineers. This hobby consists in visiting as many as possible of the English and Welsh summits which are more than 2,500 feet above sea level. The twenty-fiver is distinguished from the ordinary peak-bagger by the thoroughness of his work. The latter, for example, on going for the Cheviot is content when he has reached the triangle of stakes which marks the highest point of Northumberland. Not so the twenty-fiver. To him the triangle aforesaid only represents one of the several points of the Cheviot which require his attention. Cairn Hill and Bellyside Crag must also be visited, and there is, moreover, a point to which the ordnance surveyors have attached a bench-mark, but for which they have not been able to find any name. And if, as usually happens, the twenty-fiver is also collecting the highest points of counties, a short detour to the Scotch border will add the highest point in Roxburghshire to his list. Even in such a popular holiday ground as the Lake district there are summits which are scarcely visited, except by those guided by some such principle as the search for "twenty-fives." Consider the Haycock, for instance. Last Easter two enthusiastic twenty-fivers bagged this peak from Dungeon Ghyll, but both of them had neglected it when staying in Wasdale, before the lust for twenty-fives had come upon them. And how many members of the Rucksack Club can declare, upon their honour, that they have ascended Slight Side, Stony Cove, Stybarrow Dod, and the Grey Friar?

But when a party of twenty-fivers begin to compare notes, it is not the unconsidered corners of the Lake district or of Carnarvonshire that form the principal topics of conversation. They turn rather to the isolated peaks which offer no attraction to the rock-climbing

fraternity, and whose distance from the nearest possible base of operations, forms the chief obstacle to be overcome. It is the northern Pennines, and the Brecknockshire mountains which hold the first places in the esteem of the true twenty-fiver, and he who fails to visit these hills misses what is in its way some of the grandest scenery in Great Britain. A list of the "twenty-fives" is appended, with a short description of each group.

THE CHEVIOT, a round-topped granite hill, is best approached from Wooler, from which station it may be reached within a day; but if it is proposed to traverse the mountain, two days should be allowed. The summits above 2,500 feet are:—

The Cheviot	2676 feet	Bellyside Crag	2656 feet
Cairn Hill	2545 "	(Nameless)	2547 "

THE CROSS FELL, or Northern Pennine group, consists of a high escarpment of carboniferous rocks, dipping to the east, and cut off on the west by the Pennine Faults. The summits are all capped with millstone grit, and bear a close resemblance to the highest points of Cheshire and Derbyshire. On the east side good accommodation may be had at Forest-in-Teesdale, over 1,250 feet above sea level; on the west the villages are lower, but nearer to the summits. The easiest approach is up Knock Ore Gill from Dufton. From the top of this gill a high level track traverses the Dun Fell or Milburn Forest group, about 2,300 feet above sea level, to Tees Head. The Peaks are:—

Skirwith Fell	2562 feet	
Cross Fell	2930 "	
do.	2893 "	
do.	2739 "	
Fallow Hill	2563 "	
Little Dun Fell	2761 "	otherwise called
Great Dun Fell	2780 "	Milburn Forest.
Knock Fell	2604 "	
do.	2582 "	
Mickle Fell	2591 "	

Mickle Fell is the highest point in Yorkshire. The highest point in Durham (Burnhope Seat 2,400 feet), is separated from Cross Fell by the Tees and South Tyne valleys.

THE LAKE DISTRICT may be divided into several groups of mountains. Two of these groups consist of sedimentary rocks of the Skiddaw slate series, and have comparatively easy slopes; while the remainder, consisting of the Borrowdale series of volcanic

rocks, are more rugged. The summits in the Skiddaw slate area, are:—

Skiddaw	3054 feet
Low Man	2837 „
Saddleback	2847 „

and to the West of Bassenthwaite Lake:—

Grisedale Pike	2593 feet	(Nameless)	2533 feet
Sand Hill	2525 „	do.	2749 „
Eel Crag	2649 „	Sail	2500 „
Grassmoor	2791 „		

The summits in the volcanic area to the West of Sty Head are:—

High Stile	2643 feet	Steeple	2681 feet
Green Gable	2643 „	do.	2746 „
Great Gable	2949 „	Haycock	2619 „
Kirk Fell	2631 „	Red Pike	2707 „
Pillar Fell	2927 „	do.	2629 „

Between Sty Head and Esk Hause, we have:—

Slight Side	2501 feet	Ling Mell	2649 feet
Sca Fell	3162 „	Great End	2984 „
Sca Fell Pike	3210 „	Allen Crags	2572 „
Broad Crag		Glanmara	2562 „
Ill Crag			

Scafell Pike is of course the highest point in Cumberland. Between Esk Hause and Dunmail Raise, are:—

Dow Crag	2559 feet	Long Top	2816 feet
Coniston Old Man	2633 „	Shelter Crags	2631 „
Fairfield	2611 „	Bow Fell	2960 „
Great How Crags	2625 „	Hanging Knott	
Wetherlam	2502 „	(Nameless) near Esk Hause	2903 „
Carrs	2525 „	High White Stones	
Grey Friar	2537 „		
Crinkle Crags	2733 „		

Coniston Old Man is the highest mountain in Lancashire. Further East again between Dunmail Raise and the Kirkstone Pass, are:—

Red Screes	2541 feet	Striding Edge	feet
Dove Crag	2541 „	Cachedicam	
Hart Crag	2698 „	Low Man	3033 „
Fairfield	2863 „	White Dodd	2832 „
Great Rigg	2513 „	Raise	2889 „
St. Sunday Crag	2756 „	Styharrow Dodd	2756 „
Gavel Pike	2577 „	Watson's Dodd	2584 „
Dollywaggon Pike	2810 „	Great Dodd	2807 „
Helvellyn	3118 „		

The summit of Helvellyn is the highest point in Westmoreland. The final ridge to the east of the Kirkstone Pass contains:—

Stony Cove	2502 feet	High Street	2663 feet
Thornthwaite Crag		Kidsty Pike	2560 „
Harter Fell		High Raise	2634 „

making altogether eighty summits in England which reach the required level.

In Wales the first ridge to be considered is the Berwyn, an escarpment of volcanic ash facing south-west, and dipping north-east to the Dee Valley. It may conveniently be ascended up the dip slope from any station between Corwen and Bala. The summits are:—

Cader Fronwen	2568 feet
Moel Sych	2713 "

The summit of Moel Sych is in three counties: Merioneth, Denbigh and Montgomery, and is the highest point of the latter two.

The principal mountain mass of Wales is in Carnarvonshire, and is of a very complicated geological structure. Sedimentary, volcanic, and plutonic rocks mingle in almost inextricable confusion, and exhibit every variety of mountain from the smooth felsite dome of Foel Grach to the sharp escarpment of Tryfaen. The range is divided into several parts by road passes. The peaks to the north of Ogwen Lake are:—

Drum	2528 feet	Yr Elen	3151 feet
Llwydnor Mawr	2745 "	Carnedd Dafydd	3426 "
Yr Aryg	2875 "	Braich Du	3184 "
Bera Mawr	2587 "	Craig Du	3169 "
Bera Bach		Pen Helig	2731 "
Foel Grach	3195 "	Pen Llithing yr Wrach	2621 "
Foel Fras	3091 "		
Carnedd Llewellyn	3484 "		

Between the Ogwen and Llanberis passes are:—

Carnedd y Filiast	2694 feet	Tryfaen	3010 feet
Moel Perfedd	2750 "	Glyder Fawr	3278 "
Foel Goch	2726 "	Glyder Fach	3261 "
Elidyr Fawr	3029 "	Caseg Ffraith	
Elidyr Fach	2564 "	Esgair Felen	
Y Garn	3104 "		

while the mass to the south of Llanberis Pass, known collectively as Snowdon, contains four summits:—

Crib Goch	3023 feet
Crib y Ddysgyll	
Y Wyddfa	3560 "
Lliwedd	2947 "

Further west is the solitary peak of Moel Hebog, 2,566 feet; and on the other side of the district, and separated from the other mountains by Nant Gwynant, are:—

Moel Siabod	2880 feet
Moelwyn	2527 "

Moelwyn forms a connecting link between the mountainous groups of Carnarvonshire and Merioneth. The latter consists of a single escarpment of lava, running in a large circle round the county, with the dip always away from Harlech, but the dip is so steep that on the Arans the best crags are to be found on that side, and not on the face of the escarpment. Besides Moelwyn, this bed of rock is responsible for the following peaks:—

Arenig Fawr	2860 feet	Mynydd Moel	2804 feet
Aran Benllyn	2901 „	Cader Idris	2927 „
Aran Mawddwy	2970 „	Mynydd Pencoed	...
Craig y Ffynon (Cowarch)	2557 „	Cyfrwy	...

Of the above, Cowarch is the only one which cannot be reached in an easy day from either Llanuwchllyn or Dolgelly.

The only mountains in South Wales which reach 2,500 feet in height lie on the great ridge of old red sandstone which separates Brecknockshire from Glamorgan. This is undoubtedly the finest escarpment in Great Britain, and the rich colour of the rock gives a further charm to the scenery, which is not to be equalled elsewhere in this island. There is ample opportunity of approaching within easy reach of the peaks of this series either by road or rail from Brecon; but as accommodation is scarce, and good accommodation scarcer, the scrupulous pedestrian who insists on covering the whole distance on foot may meet with some difficulty. The peaks are:—

Carmarthen Fan	2632 feet	Gwaun Rhydd	2509 feet
Cairn Du	2863 „	do.	2502 „
Brecon Beacon	2907 „	Gader Fawr	2624 „
do.	2704 „	Waun Fach	2660 „
Bryn Teg	2608 „		

Plynlimmon, which has been described by writers who should know better as the third highest mountain in Wales, only reaches 2,468 feet above sea level.

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